

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Alberto Dibella on January 13, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows: Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for separating flowable composite media into its components, said system comprising:

pump means delivering a flowing stream of composite media, said composite media including at least a first component medium and a second component medium;

a separation tube through which the flowing stream of composite media is passed;

means for spinning the stream of flowable composite media about the axis of said separation tube at sufficient rotational speed that centrifugal force within the stream causes the components to separate into component radial layers;

extraction conduit means for selectively extracting one or more of the radial layers from said separation tube; and

at least one auxiliary filter in direct fluid communication with said separation tube by a further conduit extending from an outlet of said separation tube, said at least one auxiliary filter having a generally cylindrical housing with a cylindrical housing longitudinal axis and two opposing housing longitudinal ends containing a generally cylindrical filter defining a filter interior, a filter inward surface and a filter outward surface, said cylindrical housing having an inlet disposed upstream of said filter and opening into said cylindrical housing outside said cylindrical filter, a filtered outlet disposed downstream of said filter and opening out of said cylindrical housing from said filter interior, and a bypass outlet opening out of one of said housing longitudinal ends along said housing longitudinal axis, such that the flowing media enters said cylindrical housing outside said cylindrical filter, passes through said cylindrical filter and exits said cylindrical housing from within said filter interior and filtered material collects on the filter outward surface, said auxiliary filter including a rotatable self-cleaning means for cleaning said auxiliary filter, said rotatable self cleaning means including an elongate spray tube disposed within said cylindrical filter, said spray tube in fluid communication with a pressurized fluid source and having a plurality of

apertures oriented so as to direct pressurized fluid from said fluid source onto the filter inward surface such that the fluid passes through said filter and dislodges material collected on the filter outward surface which flows between the filter and the housing and directly exits said cylindrical housing through said bypass outlet.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claim 1 now distinguishes over the applied prior art based on Fletcher et al in view of the added limitation "at least one auxiliary filter in direct fluid communication with said separation tube by a further conduit extending from an outlet of said separation tube". This added limitation is supported by page 8, lines 10-13 and page 9, lines 1-2 of the Instant Specification concerning tube outlet 18 and conduit 19. The separation tube of Fletcher only has a single outlet and associated conduit or outlet conduit means that communicates with auxiliary filters and thus not a separate further conduit, while Dibella patent 5,904,840 does not suggest any auxiliary filters.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

JWD
1/14/2010
/Joseph W. Drodge/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797